



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year ended December 1966.

J. Gareth M. Williams.  
Medical Officer of Health

H. G. Fawcett  
Public Health Inspector.

November 1967.



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1966.

I have the honour to present this, my second Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Llangollen Urban District for 1966.

I myself succeeded Dr. T. Kendrick Hughes to the post in April of that year.

Several new developments occurred during the year in the fields of both personal and environmental health. Of particular importance in the former was the commencement in August 1966 of the Cervical Cytology service for early detection of cancer of the uterine cervix. This service has proved most acceptable to the public and as several other health tests are carried out simultaneously it has proved a great step forward in preventive medicine. Another new service of particular importance was that to eradicate Brucellosis by comprehensive testing of milk for human consumption.

No major outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred during the year and in fact no notifications at all were received throughout the year.

I would finally like to thank my colleagues on the Council staff for their kindness and thorough co-operation throughout this my first year in office. I am also very indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration at all times.

Yn olaf hoffwn fynegi fy niolch i'm cyd-weithwyr a staff y Cyngor am ei caredigrwydd a'i cydweithrediad parod drwy gydol hon, fy mlwyddyn gyntaf yn a swydd. Yr wyf hefyd yn ddyledus iawn i'r Cadeirydd ac aelodau y Pwyllgor Iechyd am eu caredigrwydd a'u hystyriaeth ar bob achlysur.



I. GENERAL STATISTICS etc.

Area of District in acres ..... 3,107  
Registrar General's estimate of population..... 2,980  
Number of Inhabited houses ..... 1,143  
Rateable Value of the District as at  
1st October 1966 ..... £102,777  
Sum represented by product of a Penny Rate  
for the year ended 31st March 1966.... £404:7s:3.834d.

POPULATION.

The estimated mid year population of 2,980 shows a decrease of 30 on the 1965 figure (3010) and is also less than the 1964 (3000) and 1963 (3010) figures.

II. VITAL STATISTICS.

1. LIVE BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 41. Of these 28 were males and 13 females. The total includes 2 illegitimate births.

This is the third successive year to show a decrease; (42 in 1965: 54 in 1964).

2. STILL BIRTHS.

For the second successive year no stillbirths occurred (c.f: 3 in 1964; 1 in 1963). This happy state of affairs follows the general pattern that has evolved in Great Britain in recent years and reflects the greatly improving maternity services. The still-birth rate of 15.4 per 1,000 births for England and Wales is the lowest annual figure on record and this figure has in fact been steadily decreasing over the years for the reasons outlined above.

3. BIRTH RATE (Comparability factor 1.16)

The birth rate was 13.76 but when adjusted for comparison with England and Wales was 15.96. This figure is lower than that for England and Wales generally which was 17.70.

4. DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered for 1966 was 42 (22 males; 20 females). This shows an increase of 2 on the 1965 total.

The following table summarises the deaths as subdivided into age groups:

Age Groups	Males	Females
45 - 54 years	1	Nil
55 - 64 years	4	7
65 - 74 years	7	2
75 years and over	10	11
Totals	22	20

No deaths occurred in persons under 45 years of age.





5. CAUSES OF DEATH.

These can be generally subdivided as follows: (figures in brackets are those for 1965 for comparison).

Diseases of heart and circulation generally....	21 (22)
Cancer .....	8 ( 8)
Diseases of Respiratory system .....	8 ( 6)
Diseases of the kidneys .....	1 (nil)
Diseases of the prostate gland .....	1 (nil)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	3 ( 1)
	<hr/> 42 <hr/>

Following the general pattern that has evolved in Great Britain (and in fact most of Western Civilisation) in recent years diseases of the Heart and Circulation account for the vast majority; and, as can be seen from the comparative figures, account for roughly the same proportion of total deaths as in the preceding year 1965.

Cancer deaths are the same in number as 1965 but half of these were the result of cancer of the lung (in 1965 only 1 case of lung cancer was recorded). Of the 8 deaths resulting from respiratory diseases 5 were due to Bronchitis and 3 due to acute pneumonia. Bronchitis is still one of the most wide-apread diseases in these islands and the proportion of sufferers in industrial regions is higher than that of rural areas.

6. INFANT DEATHS (i.e. deaths under age of one year).

It is pleasing to record that as in 1965, no infant deaths occurred during the year. As in the case of still-births this again reflects the much improved maternity and child care services. The England and Wales figure of 19.0 per 1,000 live births was the same as that for 1965. This is the lowest figure ever recorded.

7. DEATH RATE (Comparability factor 0.90)

This was 14.1. When adjusted for comparison with England and Wales generally this comes to 12.7 - higher than the England and Wales figure of 11.7.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No infectious Diseases were notified during the year. (c.f. only 3 in 1965.) As I commented in last year's report this may not reflect the true incidence for various reasons.

For the fourth year in succession no new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

9. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

(a) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

The following table summarises the number of persons immunised according to age groups: (figures in brackets show 1965 figures for comparison).





YEAR of BIRTH	DIPHTHERIA		WHOOPING COUGH		TETANUS	
	Primary	Boosters	Primary	Boosters	Primary	Boosters
1966	9	-	9	-	9	-
1965	35	5	35	5	35	5
1964	-	39	-	39	-	39
1963	-	10	-	10	-	10
1959-1962	1	58	1	49	1	57
1949-1958	-	46	-	10	-	19
TOTALS	45(41)	158(109)	45(41)	113(100)	45(41)	130(100)

As can be seen there is an increase in the numbers given protection as compared with 1965. This is more marked in the booster columns, and is the third successive year to show increases.

Primary figures are identical for the reason that these courses are administered simultaneously in the form of Triple Antigen.

(b) Poliomyelitis.

The following table summarises the number of persons immunised according to age-groups (1965 figures in brackets for comparison).

YEAR of BIRTH	PRIMARY COURSES	BOOSTERS.
1966	2	-
1965	29	-
1964	4	4
1963	4	1
1959-1962	7	71
1949-1958	2	1
Others	12	2
TOTALS	60 (69)	79 (99)

As can be seen there is a decrease both in the number of primary courses and boosters administered as compared with 1965, but the generally higher figures, as compared with the preceding year of 1964 (only 11 primary doses, 6 booster) continue to be satisfactory.



(c) Smallpox.

(1965 figures in brackets for comparison)

Age at date of vaccination.	PRIMARY vaccination.	Re-vaccination.
0 - 12 months	3	-
1 year	22	-
2 - 4 years	5	-
5 - 14 years	2	6
15 yrs. and over	7	10
Totals	39 (47)	16 (4)

Although there is a decrease in the number of primary vaccinations overall this has occurred entirely in the 1 year old group. This is the age at which most infants are nowadays vaccinated at clinics. In the other age groups and also in the re-vaccination column there is a substantial increase in the numbers. The explanation of this is that the outbreak of Variola Minor which occurred in England and Wales during the summer months prompted many members of the public to avail themselves of vaccination. An additional factor also was that several European countries at the time demanded valid vaccination certificates from holiday makers from Great Britain.

Despite this "boost" however the overall figures for Smallpox remain the lowest of all forms of immunisation available to the public.

10. CHIROPODY SERVICE.

No. on Register at 31.12.66	No. of sessions held in 1966	Total Attendances	No. on waiting list at 31.12.66
97	77	427	2

This service continues to prove most satisfactory both with regard to total numbers and the shortness of the waiting list. This follows the general pattern that has evolved throughout the County since the inception of the service.

SIGNED J. GARETH M. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health  
Swyddog Meddygol.

November 1967.



The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year, under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws within the area:

### Summary of Notices served

## Water Supply

The following reports indicate quality of the water supply:

Number returned "Unsatisfactory".	
Mains supply .....	-
Private supplies .....	6





### Chemical Analysis of Public Supply

Appearance .....	clear and colourless
Odour .....	nil
Reaction pH .....	6.9
	<u>parts per million</u>
Total solids .....	128
Nitrogen as free & Saline ammonia .....	0.02
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia .....	0.01
Nitrogen as nitrites .....	moderate
Nitrogen as nitrates .....	3.0
Chlorides, as Cl .....	11.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C .....	0.7
Total hardness .....	82
Temporary hardness .....	46
Permanent hardness .....	36
Alkalinity .....	46
Free Chlorine .....	nil
Potassium as K .....	-
Anionic Synthetic detergents .....	-
Manganese as Mn .....	-
Cyanides and Thiocyanates .....	-
Poisonous metals .....	nil

Opinion. The chemical condition of this water is satisfactory.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The results of samples taken by the Dee and Clwyd River Authority indicate that the quality of the effluent from the sewage disposal works is satisfactory.

The erosion of the River Bank upstream of Park Avenue Housing Estate which had been taking place since the exceptional flood conditions of December 1964, encroached on Manhole 56 which in addition to receiving drainage from the Estate acts as a storm water overflow.

The Council met representatives of the Dee and Clwyd River Authority. The site was inspected and the Authority undertook to clear fallen trees and debris from the centre channel of the River which it was contended was a contributory cause of the erosion of the South bank.

The Authority were unable to make any contribution towards the cost of protection works and the Council authorised immediate action to prevent further erosion around the sewer manhole.

The protection work was undertaken by the Council's direct labour force and the method adopted was to build a retaining wall approximately fifty feet in length and nine feet in height. Stone filled wire gabions were used in the construction of the retaining wall.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, all premises except for outlying houses receive a weekly collection.

The outlying premises receive a fortnightly collection.

The method of disposal is by controlled tipping at the Council's refuse tip at Wenffrwd.





Business premises especially catering establishments may have additional collections based on a fixed charge, there is also a charge for persons transporting their own trade waste to the refuse tip for disposal by the Council.

Following a report to the Council that the available land for the disposal of refuse by controlled tipping was rapidly filling, authority was given to make application to the Local Planning Authority for consent to use a further area adjacent to the existing refuse disposal site for the purpose of disposing of refuse.

Negotiations to purchase the land were also commenced.

#### HOUSING.

Four dwelling houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

Eighteen of the twenty two flats at Maes Pengwern were completed and occupied during the year. The tenants were from the Brook Street, Pengwern Square, Brook Place and Holly Cottages Clearance Areas.

A Contract for the erection at Maes Pengwern of 23 three bedroomed houses was let and at the end of the year work was in progress.

#### STANDARD AND DISCRETIONARY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Council approved two applications for Standard Improvement Grant and one application for Discretionary Improvement Grant during the year.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have one trained rodent operator who gives part of his time to this service. Two comprehensive sewer treatments were carried out successfully during the year and numerous minor treatments were given to infestations of both rats and mice in private houses.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are six caravans sited on one farm and one on another farm in the area for which a licence has been granted under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

There is no organised camping site in the area and during the summer months scores of tents are set up in fields around the Town. Some parties are well organised and orderly but a few are unruly and tend to give tenting a bad reputation.

#### FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Fifteen visits have been made to premises where food is prepared and sold for human consumption.

The standard of cleanliness and management is well maintained.

The following table gives details of the foodstuffs which have been condemned as unfit during the year.

	cwt.	lbs.
Cooked meat and meat products .....		10
Canned meats .....		32
Fish .....		14
Fruit and vegetables .....	1.	106
Other foods .....		24
Total	2.	74



ICE CREAM.

30 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of prepacked Ice cream only.

Periodic visits are made to ensure that the premises and apparatus conform with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

MARKETS

Weekly auction sales have been held in the market throughout the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The County Council is now the Authority for issuing licenses to retail milk. There is one retail dairy in the Town and two grocers shops are licensed to retail sterilised milk.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 - SCHEDULE

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during Year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	-	18	-
Retail shops	-	30	6
wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	5
totals	-	62	12

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act ..... 12



FACTORIES.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	No. on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written notices	occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	2	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	3	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	-	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	26	5	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were remedied

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil	-
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	-
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	-
Overcrowding.	Nil	Nil	-

Yours obediently,

(SIGNED) H. G. FAWCETT

Public Health Inspector.







